(b) whether it is a fact that the implementation of this trunk pipeline has become uncertain following an interim order issued by the Calcutta High Court restraining ONGC from issuing letter of credit or awarding a Rs. 200-crore contract for pipe coating;

(c) whether it is a fact that any further delay in the project will adversely affect the gas-based industries set-up alongwith HBJ pipeline; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the root cause of the dispute is ONGC's failure to incorporate clear-cut criteria for prequalifying the bidders and its tendency to change the tender conditions, if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. the interim orders of Calcutta High Court have since been vacated.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

Letter of intent by ONGC to Hyundai of South Korea

2904. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI SINGH PRIYA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that ONGC has placed a letter of intent on Hyundai on South Korea involving $ 200 million in a contract for Bassein-Hazira trunk gas pipeline, if so, what are th details of this international competitive bidding;

(b) whether it is also a fact that McDermott international has complained to the Finance Minister about the evaluation of bids by ONGC; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the Finance Ministry to intervene and solve the issue, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) ONGC has awarded contract to the lowest bidder viz. HHI-OHI Consortium for laying Bassein-Hazira trunk gas pipeline. The contract was awarded on the basis of a global tender in accordance with the ADB guidelines.

(b) and (c) A report is being sent to the Ministry of Finance.

Revision on Rates of Royalty on Crude Oil and Natural Gas

2905. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) when is the next revision of rates of "Royalty" on crude oil and natural gas due;

(b) what will be the revised rates; and

(c) when are the revised rates likely to be brought into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The rate of royalty will be due for revision for the block period of 1993—96. The revised rates to be arrived at will be known only after the well-head price of oil for this period becomes available and will come into effect after they are so notified.

Target of Import for Petroleum Products

2906. SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
SHRIMATI ILA PANDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount spent on the import of crude oil and petroleum products during the last three years;

(b) the target of import fixed in respect for the year 1993-94; and

(c) in view of the increasing demand of petroleum in country what steps Government propose to explore new oil fields in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The expenditure on the import of crude oil and petroleum products during the last three years was as under:—

Year	*Value (Rs./Crores)*
1990-91	10779
1991-92*	13038
1992-93*	17045

*Provisional

(b) Approximatley 30.60 MMT of crude and 12.89 MMT of petroleum products is proposed to be imported during the year 1993-94.

(c) Government has worked out an attractive package of terms and conditions for encouraging risk capital investment in exploration and subsequent production. Discovered oil and gas fields have also been offered for development by private companies under joint venture arrangements for medium sized fields and under production sharing contracts for small sized fields.

Visit by Iranian Delegation

2907. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level delegation form Iran led by its Petroleum Minister visited India during November, 1993; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the subjects discussed and the broad decision arrived at the meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The subjects discussed include the supply of natural gas from Iran to India, supply of crude oil, import of LPG from Iran to India and technical co-operation in the hydrocarbon sector.

Allocation of Gas for Power Projects in Gujarat

2908. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat have requested to allocate natural gas for the power projects in Gujarat;

(b) if so, indicate the decision taken thereon and the quantum of natural gas available from the offshore gas fields; and

(c) what is the quantity of gas allocated to Gujarat for power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) A total of 7.55 MMSCMD of gas has been allocated to the power projects in the State of Gujarat of which 2.25 MMSCMD is to be supplied from the Western Offshore fields.

Consumption of LPG and Kerosene

2909. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of Kerosene and LP Gas supplied/distributed for domestic consumption per month;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Kerosene and LPG for Domestic Consumption are likely to be available in open market rate without subsidy; and

(c) whether the Committee appointed for rational policy on Public Distribution System has been advised to take this commodity also into consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH